

FOREWORD

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FOREWORD

This edition of THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA, the 63rd in print, provides comprehensive coverage of political and economic life at the regional, sub-regional and national levels. The volume is divided into three separate, though complementary, sections. In Part One a collection of introductory essays discusses the most pertinent issues affecting the region. Topics covered include the challenges arising from the refugee crisis in Syria, the struggle between Iran and Saudi Arabia for regional influence, the growth of political Islam and the intellectual origins of that movement, and the issue of Kurdish political autonomy and identity. In Part Two specialist authors, researchers and commentators examine in detail the main political and economic events in each of the countries and territories in the region. In addition, all statistical and directory material has been thoroughly updated. Extensive coverage of international organizations and research bodies active in the Middle East and North Africa is included in a section of Regional Information, together with a comprehensive archive of documents related to the history of Israel and the Palestinian Territories, bibliographies of essential books and journals. A calendar of the key political events of 2015–16 enables rapid reference to the year's main developments.

Conflict and instability were the leitmotifs of the year under review. The civil war in Syria continued unabated throughout that period, despite some efforts by the USA and the Russian Federation to reach a ceasefire agreement. By September 2016 some 4.8m. Syrians were registered as refugees in neighbouring countries, according to the Office of the United Nations Commissioner for Refugees; more than double that number were thought to have been displaced in total and up to 500,000 people killed since the conflict began in 2011. Turkey hosted the largest cohort of those refugees, and its politics began to be destabilized by internal and external factors. In November 2015 President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's Adalet ve Kalkınma Partisi secured an overwhelming victory in parliamentary elections, and prepared to implement a presidential system of government. However, in July 2016 an attempt to overthrow the Government was foiled after President Erdoğan and leading ministers successfully appealed to their supporters to take to the streets in defiance of the attempted military coup, with forces loyal to the administration regaining full control of the country. Some 70,000 people were subsequently detained as security services arrested those accused by the Government of involvement, including members of the armed forces, judges, schoolteachers and academics. Meanwhile, Yemen remained divided between a rebel administration based in the capital, San'a, and the internationally recognized Government in Aden. The latter continued to receive support from a Saudi Arabia-led international military force, although the conflict appeared to have reached a stalemate. In Libya, a UN-backed agreement between elements of the two rival administrations led to the formation of a Presidency Council and Government of National Accord. However, these entities failed to establish their sole authority over the country, while the rival governments in Tripoli and al-Bayda remained in operation. Elsewhere, elections took place in Egypt, where a new parliament—the membership of which largely comprised supporters of President Abd al-Fatah al-Sisi—was inaugurated in January 2016, and in Iran, where supporters of President Hassan Rouhani were reported to have made gains at the expense of his conservative opponents in both the Islamic Consultative Assembly and the Assembly of Experts.

Other events covered in this edition include elections in Cyprus, Jordan, Oman, Syria and the UAE, and a significant overhaul of the government in Saudi Arabia.

The entire content of the print edition of THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA is available online at www.europaworld.com. This prestigious resource incorporates sophisticated search and browse functions as well as specially commissioned visual and statistical content. An ongoing programme of updates of key areas of information ensures currency of content, and enhances the richness of the coverage.

The Editors would like to express their thanks to all the contributors for their articles and advice, as well as to the numerous governments and organizations that provided statistical and other information.

October 2016

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Editors gratefully acknowledge the interest and co-operation of all the contributors to this volume, and of numerous national statistical and information offices, and government departments, as well as embassies in London and throughout the region, whose kind assistance in updating the material contained in THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA is greatly appreciated.

We acknowledge particular indebtedness for permission to reproduce material from the following publications: the United Nations' statistical databases and *Demographic Yearbook*, *Statistical Yearbook* and *Monthly Bulletin of Statistics*; the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's Institute for Statistics database; the *Human Development Report* of the United Nations Development Programme; the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations' statistical database; the statistical databases of the World Health Organization; the statistical databases of the UNCTAD/WTO International Trade Centre; the International Labour Office's statistical database; the World Bank's statistical databases, especially the World Development Indicators database, and the *World Development Report*; the International Monetary Fund's statistical database, *International Financial Statistics* and *Government Finance Statistics Yearbook*; the World Tourism Organization's *Compendium* and *Yearbook of Tourism Statistics*; the US Geological Survey; the International Telecommunication Union; the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia's *National Accounts Studies of the ESCWA Region*; Lloyd's List; and *The Military Balance 2016*, a publication of the International Institute for Strategic Studies, Arundel House, 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2R 3DX, United Kingdom. We are also grateful to the Israeli embassy, London, for the use of two maps illustrating the disengagement agreements between Israel and Egypt, and Israel and Syria (both 1974).

The following publication has been of special value in providing regular coverage of the affairs of the Middle East and North Africa region: *Middle East Economic Digest*.

HEALTH AND WELFARE STATISTICS: SOURCES AND DEFINITIONS

Total fertility rate Source: WHO Global Health Observatory. The number of children that would be born per woman, assuming no female mortality at child-bearing ages and the age-specific fertility rates of a specified country and reference period.

Under-5 mortality rate Source: WHO Global Health Observatory. Defined by WHO as the probability of a child born in a specific year or period dying before reaching the age of five, if subject to the age-specific mortality rates of the year or period.

HIV/AIDS Source: UNAIDS. Estimated percentage of adults aged 15 to 49 years living with HIV/AIDS. < indicates 'fewer than'.

Health expenditure Source: Global Health Expenditure database. Covering the provision of health services (preventive and curative), family planning activities, nutrition activities, and emergency aid designated for health.

US \$ per head (PPP) International dollar estimates at 2011. The sum of public and private health expenditures as a ratio of total population.

% of GDP GDP levels for OECD countries follow the most recent UN System of National Accounts. For non-OECD countries a value was estimated by utilizing existing UN, IMF and World Bank data.

Public expenditure % of total expenditure Government health-related outlays plus expenditure by social schemes compulsorily affiliated with a sizeable share of the population, and extrabudgetary funds allocated to health services. Figures include grants or loans provided by international agencies and other national authorities.

Access to water and sanitation Source: WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme on Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP) (*Progress on Sanitation and Drinking Water, 2015 Update and MDG Assessment*). Defined in terms of the percentage of the population using improved facilities in terms of the type of technology and levels of service afforded. For water, this includes house connections, public standpipes, boreholes with handpumps, protected dug wells, protected spring and rainwater collection; allowance is also made for other locally defined technologies. Sanitation is defined to include connection to a sewer or septic tank system, pour-flush latrine, simple pit or ventilated improved pit latrine, again with allowance for acceptable local technologies. Access to water and sanitation does not imply that the level of service or quality of water is 'adequate' or 'safe'.

Carbon dioxide emissions Source: World Bank, World Development Indicators database, citing the Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Center (sponsored by the US Department of Energy). Emissions comprise those resulting from the burning of fossil fuels (including those produced during consumption of solid, liquid and gas fuels and from gas flaring) and from the manufacture of cement.

Human Development Index (HDI) Source: UNDP, *Human Development Report* (2015). A summary of human development measured by three basic dimensions: prospects for a long and healthy life, measured by life expectancy at birth; knowledge, measured by adult literacy rate (two-thirds' weight) and the combined gross enrolment ratio in primary, secondary and tertiary education (one-third weight); and standard of living, measured by GDP per head (PPP US \$). The index value obtained lies between zero and one. A value above 0.800 indicates very high human development, between 0.700 and 0.799 high human development, between 0.550 and 0.699 medium human development, and below 0.550 low human development. A centralized data source for all three dimensions was not available for all countries. In some cases other data sources were used to calculate a substitute value; however, this was excluded from the ranking. Other countries, including non-UNDP members, were excluded from the HDI altogether. In total, 188 countries were ranked for 2014.

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